JORDAN, John William and DeEsta Bond

My husband, John William Jordan, was born February 20, 1900, to George Borland and Emma Davis Jordan on the Jordan Ranch. This ranch has been in the Jordan family for five generations.

The first thing I remember about the Heber Second Ward was that I got to play in the sand pile on the construction site when the Second Ward building was being constructed on First West and Center Street. My mother was working in the Alice Jones Millinery Shop a few doors west of the old Heber Bank Building, and she would take me with her to work. My uncle, John Bond, had the contract to build this building. I didn't think then that some day I would belong to this ward.

I was born 29 August, 1907, to Alfred Thomas and Lela Clift Bond. After Bill and I were married, on 23 May, 1925, we lived on the Jordan Ranch which was then part of the Heber Second Ward. Our three children, Clift, Allen, and Phyllis were all born there. Our marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple.

The Jordan Ranch was homesteaded by John Jordan, my husband's grandfather who was one of the first seven men to come into Heber Valley. He built a log house and dug a well. His wife and daughter died of typhoid fever from drinking water from this well. John Jordan was born in England and was a vital part of the early history of the Church. He took part in the Echo Canyon trouble, was a veteran of the Walker and Black Hawk Wars, and a councilor to John M. Murdock in the stake presidency. He was also a High Priest group leader.

My husband's father, George Borland Jordan, who was born February 14, 1872, and his wife Emma were married by Johnny Duke on October 12, 1896. Three years later, they made the two-day trip to Salt Lake to be sealed in the Salt Lake Temple on October 12, 1899. Their son Ervin was seventeen months old and Emma was five months pregnant with her son, John William, my husband.

George B. Jordan ran the ranch where he raised cattle and hay and worked in the Drain Tunnel, later known as Park Utah Mine. When Bill and Erv were old enough to ride a horse, they would visit the sheep camps in the nearby hills and the herders would give them their dogie lambs which they would take home and raise on bottles of cows' milk. This fostered a love of sheep and when the boys grew older persuaded their father to sell the cattle and buy sheep. The two of them eventually inherited the ranch.

When our son, Clift, married Jane Johnson, they moved onto the ranch and lived in the little house until their three children were born. They then built a new home a mile south of the old place. Now, their son, Kenneth, and his wife, Gaynell, and their two girls live in the house that Clift and Jane built. They are the fifth generation Jordans to live on the ranch.

After Bill's brother, Erv, died, Bill bought his half of the Jordan Ranch, and has now turned it over to Clift. One day, Clift and Ken were cleaning the yard and burning the trash when a spark blew into a sawdust lined shed and onto the house that Erv and Opal used to live in before they moved to Heber. The house was totally destroyed before the fire engine from Heber got there. We have seen many changes on the ranch over the past sixty years.

Both Bill and I have loved the gospel through the years. I served as president both in the Primary and in the Relief Society, and I also served in the presidency of the Stake Relief Society for seven years, four of them as president. Bill showed his love with generous contributions.